

SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORTCOUNTRY USSR
SUBJECT US Prisoners of War in USSR

25X1

25X1

DATE DISTR. 27 Apr 1954

NO. OF PAGES 3

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
OF THE UNITED STATES. WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793
AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVE-
LATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS
PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS REPORT IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

1.

information regarding the presence
of US prisoners (captured during the Korean War) on the territory of
Asiatic USSR. Mostly they were in Komsomolsk (Amur River), Magadan (Bay
of Nogaievo, Sea of Okhotsk), Chita, Irkutsk, Molotov, Gubaisa (northwest
of Molotov), Kemi Permiak (Siberia), Rudynka (northwest of Molotov),
Chomov (on the Kama River, north of Molotov). There is nothing to
indicate that any of them have ever been returned.).

2.

Over a year ago, the Soviet authorities established camps for prisoners
(not necessarily US) taken in Korea by the Sino-North Korean forces.
These camps were located at:

Komsomolsk, on the River Amur
Magadan, on the bay of Nogaievo, Sea of Okhotsk
Chita
Irkutsk

Prisoners from both the US and the various cooperating European armies were
alike known as Voyennoplenniki Amerikantsi.

SEE LAST PAGE FOR SUBJECT & AREA CODES

25X1

SECRET

This report is for the use within the USA of the Intelligence components of the Departments or Agencies indicated above. It is not to be transmitted overseas
outside the USA. It is to be controlled by the originating agency through the Assistant Director of the Office of Collection and Dissemination, CIA. All or parts of the contents,
however, may be used by the above organizations in Intelligence publications receiving overseas distribution providing the publication bears the caveat "US OFFICIALS
ONLY" and the citation, if made, refers only to "CIA Source".

25X1

SECRET

-2-

3. In Feb 1952, three hundred US prisoners of war were transported by rail from Chita to Molotov (in Soviet Russia, east of the Ural Mountains). At Chita, in Eastern Siberia, the prisoners were sorted out.
4. The prisoners were dressed in cotton mattress-cover cloth of the Soviet type. They wore no insignia. They traveled on a train of nine cars under strict MVD (Ministry Internal Affairs) guard. They made a long halt at the prison of the city of Gubakha and were not sent on to the prison at Molotov until 5 Apr 52. In Mar 1952 there were reports of other loads of prisoners being transported. These men spoke English among themselves. They were shipped, in groups of about fifty, every fifteen days, though it is not known how long this continued. 25X1
5. About this same time [redacted] a group of prisoners were being sent to Komi Permiak, in the northwestern part of Siberia. Their eventual destinations were Molotov, Gubakha (northwest of Molotov), Kadykhar (also northwest of Molotov), and Chermoz (on the Kama River, north of Molotov).
6. Still another report, dated April 1952, reported the presence of US prisoners. These were probably US officers. At Molotov this group of prisoners of war was designated, "American staff group." They were placed in an MVD building and completely isolated from the rest of the world.
7. The camps of Gubakha, Kadykhar, and Chermoz were also isolated and were under control of the MVD. The political control was in charge of a man named Edevin, of the Communist Party organization at Komi-Permiak. The three camps were under direction of a well-known Soviet officer, under the name of Kalypin, rank unknown. 25X1
8. In another camp, near the railroad station of Gubakha, called Zapretshchanski, there were 150 US prisoners. [redacted] probably mixed up an "Entrance Forbidden" sign with the name of the camp. [redacted] Russian is mixed, but certainly "zapreshchat" means "to forbid.")
9. These prisoners were kept under constant surveillance by Soviet agents, who knew English perfectly. The Soviet authorities tried their best to build up a list of US prisoners who were not completely hostile to Soviet ideology or who were at least not inveterate foes of it. The US prisoners talked a good deal. In this way, the Soviet agents were able to pick out those men who might be willing to ameliorate their situation by taking an interest in courses of political instruction.
10. Every two or three days, an MVD officer called away one or two prisoners (the Soviet first choices for such instruction). These prisoners never came back to the camp.
11. Some prisoners were sent to the forced labor camps and used in the construction of a railway line. This camp was called Gaysk. These prisoners wore padded tunics of the Russian style and pantaloons. They wore a civilian headress called "sibirki". Conditions were primitive. Sickness and death rates were high.


SECRET

25X1

SECRET



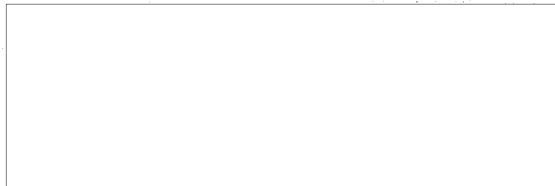
-3-

12. According to information covering the period Aug to Dec 1952, three hundred US prisoners were transported to the camps mentioned above. The total number of prisoners brought in the same direction reached six thousand.
13. According to information received  the following facts may be regarded as established:

25X1

- a. Prisoners were taken by rail from the station of Poset (on the Chinese-Soviet boundary) over the line of the East Siberian Railway. They were taken to the eastern Urals.
- b. Prisoners were also taken by boat from the ports of Bulhta, Okhotsk, and Magadan. They then went by rail or truck to Vaikarem [sic] (on the Sea of Chukot) to Ust Maik (on the Aldan River) and to Yakutsk (on the Lena River.)
- c. Transportation of prisoners to Vaikarem, or Vakairen, [sic] was followed by their distribution to a network of camps in the region of Nizhni Kolyma, on the East Siberian Sea. These camps were run by the MVD, under the command of an officer of unknown rank, named Sorochuk (probably an MVD major) and a civilian official named Chimbo.
- d. At the hi^{25X1} possible estimate, there were no more than 12,000 of these prisoners. By Apr 1952, three hundred were dead and 400 had been taken to barracks, gravely ill.

- end -



SECRET